

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Question No: 123**

**Program No. ABC**

**Hansard Ref: Page 47 (19/11/2013)**

**Topic: Content**

**Senator Thorp asked:**

**Senator THORP:** I am sure the South Australians would think that is pretty big. What checks and balances have you got in place to make sure that element of your charter is fulfilled, and how do you record whether or not the work that is being done—

**Mr Scott:** We do internal work around that. Our television division keeps significant detail of what work we are doing in different parts of the country, and we review that. For example, the television series *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* that we have done has been filmed in regional Victoria. I understand we have a children's drama program underway in Tasmania at the moment. There has been a lot that has happened in Western Australia. So we look to work in partnership, and this is material that our television division keeps and reports to me on.

**Senator THORP:** And is that kind of information publicly available?

**Mr Scott:** We can provide you with some more detail on notice if you would like.

**Answer:**

ABC project budgets are captured and tagged by locale in Australia, based on where the majority of production and expenditure occurs.

Actual investment (both internal and external) in production outside the centres of Sydney and Melbourne has averaged over \$25 million per year over the last two financial years. The total of commissioned production budgets attributed to the regions peaked at \$47.7 million in 2012/13.

Since 2009/10, the ABC has leveraged an additional \$67 million towards production in the regions in collaboration with the independent sector and state funding agencies. When the ABC commissions in partnership with the industry for production in regional Australia, every dollar invested results in \$2.40 in production value on screen.

In addition to these projects, in some instances, commissions that have a substantial proportions of production and expenditure in the centres of Sydney and Melbourne, may have elements of production that occur in regional Australia. For example, *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* where much of the production was undertaken in Ballarat, *Devil Island* which occurs in Victoria and parts of Tasmania and *Cliffy* which had some production in Albury in regional NSW.